



**DENISE MERRILL**

SECRETARY OF THE STATE  
CONNECTICUT

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- PRESS RELEASE -

## **MERRILL: 2012 PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY WILL BE HELD APRIL 24<sup>TH</sup>**

SECRETARY OF THE STATE SAYS UNANIMOUS SENATE PASSAGE OF HB 6532  
PUTS CONNECTICUT PRIMARY ON THE SAME DAY AS PRESIDENTIAL VOTING  
IN PENNSYLVANIA, NEW YORK, AND RHODE ISLAND

**HARTFORD:** Secretary of the State Denise Merrill today announced that with unanimous State Senate passage of House Bill No. 6532, "*An Act Concerning the Presidential Preference Primary*," Connecticut will be holding its 2012 Presidential Primary on Tuesday April 24, 2012. This change in primary date (from the previous date of February 5<sup>th</sup>) will result in a regional primary with the neighboring states of Pennsylvania, New York, and Rhode Island. Both the Democratic and Republican national committees have provided state parties with incentives to move their primaries to later dates to avoid the front-loading of the Presidential selection process. Both state Democratic and Republican party leadership have agreed on the date of April 24, 2012 as an acceptable date for Connecticut's next Presidential Preference Primary.

"I am happy to see that the date of our Presidential Preference Primary is now set, and I am looking forward to Governor Malloy signing this bill so we can begin preparing for this important election," said Secretary Merrill, Connecticut's chief elections officer. "Pushing the primary date back a little will allow Connecticut to have more regional clout, especially since our neighboring states are also moving their primaries to that day. This helps both state parties and the voters, who are already paying close attention to the critical process of choosing our President."

House Bill No. 6532 had originally named a date of March 6, 2012 to hold the next Presidential Primary in Connecticut, a date shared by the state of Massachusetts. The date was moved further back to April 24<sup>th</sup> due to further incentives from the national parties and in order to avoid coinciding with the Connecticut Mastery Tests taking place in schools, which could have created logistical problems as many polling places are public schools in Connecticut.